

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

NICK LALOTA

NEW YORK'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Monday, May 22nd, 2023

Dear {{prefix}} {{lastname}},

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Here you will be able to learn more about my work in Washington and at home serving Long Islanders.

The Terrible Liar

Last week, I voted to refer the case of Rep. George Santos' expulsion to the House Committee on Ethics. While I would have preferred there to be enough votes to expel the sociopath scam artist, Congressman D'Esposito has spearheaded the next best option: To refer this matter to the Ethics Committee where we expect a result within 60 days and for the terrible liar to be gone, by resignation or expulsion, before August recess.

Don't NYC My Suffolk

I joined leaders from across Suffolk County to clearly and unequivocally state that Long Islanders should not have to bear the weight of the crisis at the border created by the combination of the Biden Administration's failed border policies and the sanctuary city policies of New York City.

Mayor Adams and New York City Officials chose to have sanctuary city policies. Predictably, their city resources have become overrun and Veterans, Homeless, Mentally Impaired, and victims of substance abuse now have access to less or no resources because of the city's sanctuary policies which have attracted so many who have crossed our border illegally or on unviable asylum claims. Now, NYC, not Suffolk, should have to pay for the consequences of those policies. Suffolk's First Responder, Education, Veterans, Homeless, and Substance Abuse resources are already stretched way too thin.

We are a compassionate nation— one with rules and laws that no one is above. Those who entered the country illegally, or who are manipulating our asylum laws, should not displace law-abiding taxpayers from their government services. Veterans, the homeless, the mentally impaired, and other Americans in need deserve better.



Restoring SALT

New York State has the dubious distinction of having the highest combined property, sales, and income taxes. While many New Yorkers are fleeing to low-tax states like Florida, the rest of us continue to plead with our representatives in Albany to provide us tax relief.

I am doing my part to make Long Island more affordable by seeing to it that New Yorkers get more of their SALT deduction back. The cap on the SALT deduction has caused significant hardship for Long Islanders and in a time of such economic uncertainty, working families need support.



To take action, I introduced the [SALT Fairness and Deficit Reduction Act](#), which would effectively

bring the deduction to pre-2017 levels for the overwhelming number of taxpayers while at the same time reducing the federal deficit. Taxpayers are able to deduct state and local taxes from their federal tax returns, but have to abide by the \$10,000 cap that was set in 2017. In states with high costs of living, such as New York, these taxes inflict a double penalty and unfairly punishes middle- and working-class families.

The SALT Fairness and Deficit Reduction Act would raise and extend the SALT deduction to \$60K for single filers and \$120K for joint filers beginning in 2023 and lasting until December 31st, 2032, also indexed to inflation.

Additionally, we must take definitive action to address our deficit. As a member of the bipartisan SALT Caucus, I am proud to introduce my common sense legislation, which responsibly provides tax relief for middle-class families while cutting costs down the road. I look forward to working across the aisle to make life more affordable on Long Island.

To read the full text of my bill, click [HERE](#).

Securing Our Border

Our border security, asylum process, and immigration system have been broken for decades and there is plenty of blame to go around for how bad it has gotten. Recently, [I voted in support of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act](#).

This bill takes real action to support the dedicated men and women of our Border Patrol, invest in technology to end this Administration's reckless catch-and-release policies, and seeks to renegotiate proven policies like Remain in Mexico and the Asylum Cooperation Agreements.

This crisis has become more than a border security crisis. This is a policy crisis and a humanitarian crisis that must be addressed. I hope Senate Democrats and President Biden will join us in working to secure our border and keep Americans safe.

Supporting Small Businesses

I was able to chair my first hearing as Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business' Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure. The hearing, titled "Leveling the Playing Field: State of Small Business Contracting," focused on ensuring small business owners are easily able to navigate the government contracting space.



I appreciated hearing from our witnesses about improvements we can make to better serve small businesses across the country. It was great to hear directly from folks who have been directly involved in the SBA's self-certification guidelines.

Suffolk County is home to hundreds of small businesses which currently benefit from federal contracts and others that can benefit from future federal contracts. We need to make sure small businesses have a fair shot at landing government contracts.

To watch my hearing, click [HERE](#).

Votes

With my support, Congress passed critical legislation to secure the border, go after fraudsters and cheats, support coastal communities, keep Americans safe, support Law Enforcement, stop government overreach, shut down rogue prosecutors, and save taxpayer dollars.

[H.Con.Res. 40](#), expresses support for Law Enforcement Officers and condemns any and all efforts to defund or dismantle Law Enforcement agencies.

[H.Res. 363](#), would recognize National Police Week and memorialize Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty. During National Police Week, we extend our deepest gratitude and honor to the brave men and women in Law Enforcement who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting our communities with unwavering commitment and courage. We must always remember the sacrifices made by our Police Officers, who face daily challenges and put their lives on the line to maintain law and order, ensuring our safety and security. Their selflessness and dedication deserve our utmost respect and appreciation.

[H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act](#), would resume border wall construction, bolster Customs and Border Protection staffing, modernize and enhance technology, demand transparency from the Department of Homeland Security, address border patrol retention, and support local law enforcement. For decades, our immigration system has been broken, our border has been overwhelmed, and Law Enforcement has struggled with the resources to keep us safe. Now, because of the Biden Administration's reckless open border policies and blue states' sanctuary city laws, these problems have exacerbated and become the crisis we see today. It is critical this bill is signed into law to keep Americans safe in our communities. There is too much at stake.

[H.R. 676, the Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act](#), would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to collaborate with tribal, local, and state government entities on ocean acidification vulnerability assessments, research planning, and information sharing. The waters off Long Island are an important part of our economic growth and prosperity.

[H.R. 1163, the Protecting Taxpayers and Victims of Unemployment Fraud Act](#), would address fraud and overpayments of pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, including by providing incentives for states to investigate and recover overpayments of these benefits. It is well documented that criminal organizations and fraudsters exploited our unemployment benefits system to rob hundreds of billions of dollars from American taxpayers. Individuals had not only their benefits but their identities stolen to perpetuate this fraud. Any individual who defrauds the American people deserves to be prosecuted, and I am proud this legislation will give states the tools necessary to ensure these criminals face the consequences of their actions.

[H.R. 1734, the Testing, Rapid Analysis, and Narcotic Quality Research \(TRANQ\) Act](#), would require the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to support research and other activities related to identifying xylazine (a compound used in veterinary medicine as a non-opioid tranquilizer), novel synthetic opioids, and other emerging substances of concern. We need to ensure our government is doing everything it can to protect the American people and increasing research into how to handle potentially harmful substances is a great step in doing so.

[H.R. 2494, the Protect Our Law Enforcement with Immigration Control and Enforcement \(POLICE\) Act](#), would make assaulting a Law Enforcement Officer a deportable offense. This bill is a common sense policy to show these heroes that we have their backs.

[H.R. 3091, the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act](#), would direct the General Services Administration to establish a program under which a federal law enforcement officer may purchase a retired handgun from the agency that issued the handgun to the officer. This simple piece of legislation is a win to support Law Enforcement and will save taxpayer money.

[H.R. 3089, the Non-Disclosure Order \(NDO\) Fairness Act](#), is a bipartisan bill that would work to

rein in prosecutorial abuse and executive branch overreach by strengthening the standards prosecutors must meet when seeking to place NDOs on service providers.

Committee Work

In addition to chairing my first subcommittee hearing, we held a hearing and a markup at the Homeland Security Committee, as well as a hearing at the Small Business Committee.

Our Homeland Security hearing was a joint subcommittee hearing held by the Subcommittees on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence and Emergency Management and Technology titled “Protecting the Homeland: An Examination of Federal Efforts to Support State and Local Law Enforcement.” It was great to have this hearing, during National Police Week, to hear from local Law Enforcement officers from across the country on the challenges they are facing and what can be done to support them.

To watch my questioning during this hearing, click [HERE](#).

At our Homeland Security markup, we reviewed and debated a package of five bills to supper cybersecurity, counter China, reauthorize the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office, and support First Responders.

The legislation we considered are listed here;

- [H.R. 1501](#), the Unmanned Aerial Security (UAS) Act
- [H.R. 3208](#), the DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act
- [H.R. 3224](#), the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act
- [H.R. 3254](#), the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act
- [H.R. 3286](#), the Securing Open Source Software Act

At the Small Business Committee, we held a second hearing on the troubling rule changes made by the SBA to their 7(a) Loan Program. At the hearing, titled “Taking More Risk: Examining the SBA’s Changes to the 7(a) Lending Program Part II”, we heard from experts on the recent decline in small business federal contracting.

To watch my questions during this hearing, click [HERE](#).

We Moved to Hauppauge!

On May 1st, our District Office moved from Huntington to Hauppauge. Our phone number has not

changed: (631) 289-1097.

Our new address is: [515 NY-111, Suite 3B, Hauppauge, NY 11788](#). All mail en route to our former address in Huntington has been forwarded to the new office.

My team and I have been hard at work in Washington and Suffolk County and I look forward to continuing our district operations more towards the population center of the district, in Hauppauge. I appreciate the hospitality the Huntington community has given our team and me for our first few months in office.

I encourage any resident of New York's First District who is having issues with a federal agency to contact my office as soon as possible. We are here to serve and want to help!

Rocky Point Mobile Office Hours

As a reminder, every Thursday my staff holds mobile office hours at the [VFW in Rocky Point from 1 pm to 5 pm](#). Walk-ins are more than welcome, but to ensure you can be seen, I encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment at 631-289-1097 or visit my website at [lalota.house.gov](#).

The Rocky Point VFW is not an active mailbox for our office. To mail anything to my staff or me, please be sure to address all mail to our [NEW District Office in Hauppauge](#): 515 Route 111, Suite 3B, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

Sincerely,



Rep. Nick LaLota
Member of Congress

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